

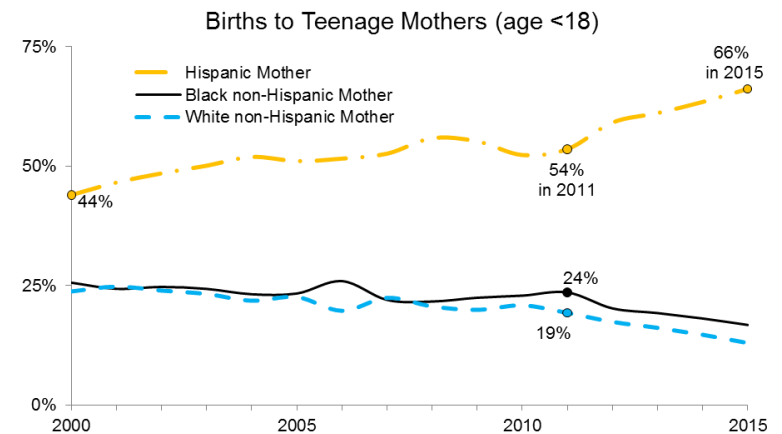
Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

Quality of Life Result: That all members of the Latino and Puerto Rican population of the state are economically self-sufficient by reducing the number of pregnancies among Latino females under age 18.

Stakeholders: Twenty-one organizations including women's advocates, pregnancy care centers, pregnancy prevention organizations, City of Hartford, municipal elected officials, hospitals, social services providers, and community organizations.

What We Know

In Connecticut in 2011, Latino females were 20% of the population of females under age 18. However, Latino females accounted for 54% of births to teenage mothers (<18). Latino females are forecast to account for 66% of teenage births in 2015.



Sources: 1998-2011 births from CT DPH tbl 4; 2012-2015 births using forecast function in Excel; population percentage from ACS 2011 1-yr tables B01001 and B01001I.

Story Behind the Baseline

There are various causes for the higher rate of teenage births among Latino females (relative to whites and African Americans). Racial and economic isolation create barriers to positive youth outcomes and reinforce perceptions that there are few life choices available to teenage Latinas living in poverty. There is also the cultural outlook of families coming to the U.S. from Latin America who are not aware of the loss of economic opportunities for teenage mothers in the U.S. High poverty among Latinos also contributes to less access to contraception and an increase in the likelihood of an unstable home life.

Trend: ▼

Proposed Legislative Actions to Turn the Curve

Action 1: Comprehensive and developmentally appropriate school-based sexual health education should be required starting in elementary school, for girls as well as boys.

Action 2: Increase access to contraception for low-income teens and provide consistent year-to-year funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs with proven efficacy.

Action 3: Increase the availability of licensed maternity group homes with comprehensive resources for homeless teen mothers to graduate from high school and become economically self-sufficient.

Data Development Agenda

Collect statewide and town-level data to measure the demand for maternity homes for pregnant teenage mothers under age 18.

Notes:



Trend Going in Right Direction? ▲ Yes; ▼ No; ◀▶ Flat/ No Trend